

Newark Parks -

July 2, 1986

TO: LIZ DEL TUFO

FROM: DOUG ELDRIDGE

RE: ASHBY MEMORIAL

I can appreciate your feeling we should not try to have Ashby's name replace the name of someone else on a street or park, and therefore we should reconsider the suggestion to seek renaming of Wallace Park at West Market and H2th Avenue.

I find myself torn on this issue, as I was when Henderson wanted us to take an absolute stand against any name changes some years ago. Basically, I agree with him and with you, and it would seem hypocritical for us -- of all people -- to seek a renaming of a park with an established name. On the other hand, we have to recognize that a community grows and changes, and newly arrived groups may never see their names on anything if they have to wait for a totally new street or park. I also feel, in this particular case, that this is the park closest to Ashby's home and in the area he once served, and its name is not highly significant (yes, that's a subjective judgment) or known to more than a handful of people (we had to dig into several files to find out that there was any name on that park).

Rather than prolong the debate, however, I suggest we consider some alternate possibilities for Ashby's name:

Lombardy Park (McCarter Highway, Lombardy Street, Lombardy Place) -- very visible location behind Mutual Benefit and N.J. Bell. City briefly transferred it to Mutual Benefit for headquarters expansion, but that was scrapped. If park is renamed, Lombardy name persists on two streets. (This is City Block 13).

Sussex Park (Sussex and Central Aves. and Summit Street). -- Slightly smaller than Lombardy, but about as visible. Within James Street Commons. Name not generally known. (Block 2830).

Clinton Park (Lincoln Park and Clinton Avenue) -- Contains Colleoni statue. Within Lincoln Park Historic District. Name not generally known -- it's often considered part of Lincoln Park. Visible but poorly maintained. If renamed, there's still Clinton Avenue, Place and Street. (Block 120).

First Street Park (north ends of 1st through 4th streets, above 7th Avenue) -- Couple of small parks, much less visible than downtown locations, but apparently without any real names (also without any possible links with Ashby).

Lincoln Avenue, from Irving Street to Verona Avenue (two blocks) -- The Ashbys lived many years at 53 Irving, near Lincoln Avenue. This part of the avenue is separated by five blocks from the rest of Lincoln Avenue, and people often have trouble finding it -- there's no real connection between the two sections. This is Ashbys' old neighborhood, and only a small number of people would be affected by change. There would still be the bulk of Lincoln Avenue (plus Lincoln Street and Lincoln Park) if this small section were renamed. Low visibility, however.

Let's talk more about the possibilities. Henderson mall on Heller Parkway should pose no real problem.

CC: Don Durr, Charles Cummings



**New Jersey Bell**

A Bell Atlantic Company

650 Park Avenue  
East Orange, New Jersey 07017

June 27, 1986

Douglas Eldridge  
Treasurer  
Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee  
Carteret Building, Fourth Floor  
868 Broad St.  
Newark, N.J. 07102

Dear Mr. Eldridge:

Thank you very much for your interest in our New Jersey Bell Headquarters building; however, we will not be seeking nomination of the building for the National Register of Historic Places at this time.

Judging by your interest, I am sure we may count on your committee's support in this endeavor should the climate for such an undertaking improve in future.

Again, thank you very much for your interest and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Interdonato  
Assistant Manager - Land Use Matters

Copy to: General Manager - Support Services  
Director - Real Estate  
Arthur Guida, Community Relations

CRI:je  
0128e/0057A

June 30-86.

Dear Henry,

I am very glad to have  
the historical data which released  
a few days ago.

I am very particular with most  
all of it, as indeed, a part  
of some of it.

Every student in all of  
our schools should be re-  
quired to read it.

Yours  
Bill

ASHBY - ON  
STATE LIST OF  
BLACK HISTORIC  
SITES